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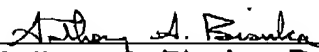
REMARKS

Pursuant to a telephone discussion with Examiner Dote on April 24, 2003, entry of this Supplemental Amendment is requested.

In this Supplemental Amendment, claim 18 has been amended by deleting the phrase " NH_4^+ , H_3O^+ , an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, earth metal or transition metal ion". In line 2, the word "or" has been inserted for grammatical purposes.

In view of the forgoing amendment and remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration of it is requested. If the Examiner disagrees, she is requested to contact the attorney for Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


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